



The City of Raleigh
Solid Waste Services Department
SWS Call Center Hours
Mon-Fri 7 am - 6 pm
For more information and to
report a missed collection.
Saturday 8 am - 12 pm
For Friday missed collection ONLY.
919.996.6890

Your Guide To The Raleigh Recycling Division

Recycling MATTERS!



www.raleighnc.gov Search Word: Recycle

Spring 2011

Raleigh Recycling Has Big News!

Last June, Raleigh Recycling began a pilot project to test the use of 95-gallon roll carts and biweekly collection for curbside recycling. Previously, all residential curbside recycling customers had weekly collection using 18-gallon bins. The pilot area included 3,900 households. Recycling carts for the four targeted routes were funded by an Energy Efficiency Community Block Grant, a program using federal recovery monies.

The pilot program went so well that in

July an additional 14,000 households were added, marking the beginning of the first phase of a four-year plan to switch all residents to fully automated recycling cart collection with biweekly service. Since, ultimately, we will need to purchase recycling carts for over 115,000 households, as well as automated trucks required to service the carts, the City opted to phase in the new program over a four-year period. During this period, some residents will have the large carts and biweekly service, and others will continue to have weekly collection and the smaller bins.

There are several advantages to moving from weekly bin to biweekly cart collection. First, residents have larger capacity containers and more room for recyclables. Over the two-week period between collections, residents have more than two and a half times more space for recycling! Second, biweekly collection reduces fuel costs and results in fewer emissions because collection using carts requires fewer trucks. Third, automated collection, where an arm from the truck



lifts and empties the cart, is safer for recycling crews and reduces the number of workplace injuries. Fourth, based on the experiences of other North Carolina communities, biweekly cart collection leads to increased recycling tonnages, reducing landfill costs and increasing revenues from the sale of recyclables. Finally, the biweekly automated recycling collection program is expected to save over \$330,000 the first year, and over \$2 million annually after the transition is complete.

A review of data collected from June through September in the initial pilot area of

3,900 households found that recycling participation increased 39 percent, and tons of recyclables collected increased by 49 percent when compared to the same period of the previous year. This increase in recycling resulted in a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to conserving 14 households' annual energy consumption, 268 barrels of oil, and 12,504 gallons of gasoline, according to the U.S. EPA's WARM model.

To learn more about the roll-out of the cart program, visit www.raleighnc.gov/search/content/SolidWaste/Articles/RecycleCarts.html.

Celebrate Earth Day!

On Saturday, April 16, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Raleigh Recycling will be joining other local agencies and organizations at Planet Earth Celebration 2011. This Earth Day festival is held each year in downtown Raleigh by Burt's Bees and the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences. This is a FREE, fun, family friendly event that is held rain or shine, so come on downtown. Learn more at www.raleighearthday.com.



Another great way to celebrate Earth Day is to take part in "Shred & Recycle It!" After you file your taxes and before you head to the Planet Earth Celebration, stop by Oak Park Shopping Center at 6001 Glenwood Ave. We'll be there on Saturday, April 16, from 9 a.m. until noon, to accept sensitive and confidential documents for shredding. This is for documents that contain sensitive personal information, such as pay stubs or credit card bills. You don't need to shred your junk mail—that wastes time and energy and decreases the value of the paper. There is a limit of THREE BOXES per person! ONLY PAPER will be shredded and then recycled. Don't worry about the staples or paper clips, but no DVDs, CDs, cassettes or other media will be accepted. Please check your boxes and remove any non-paper items before you head to this event.

Did you know?

Whether you are recycling in a cart or a bin, we accept 14 items for recycling: all glass food containers; all plastic bottles (except those that contained motor oil or pesticides); newspapers; corrugated cardboard (must be reduced to 3' x 3' pieces); magazines; catalogs; white paper (including junk mail); paperboard boxes and tubes; gable-top cartons (milk and juice cartons); aseptic (drink) boxes; soft plastic beverage rings; aluminum beverage cans; clean aluminum foil and trays; and metal food cans.



Compost bin sale planned



On Saturday, May 7, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., we will host a one-day-only Compost Bin Sale at 4121 New Bern Ave., in the former Super Kmart parking lot off of Business 64. We'll be there rain or shine! You'll be able to purchase a FreeGarden Earth compost bin for \$45. We will also have kitchen collection containers for \$8; compost aerators for \$15; and compost thermometers for \$25. All bins and accessories will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information, call the Recorded Information Line at 919-996-6860.

If you'd like to learn more about backyard composting or vermicomposting (recycling food scraps with the help of worms), check the Parks & Recreation Department's Leisure Ledger for upcoming composting class dates or call 996-6890 to request our publication, "Recycle Your Yard."

The winner of this year's U.S. Composting Council's International Compost Awareness Week Poster Contest is Heather Lawrence from Raleigh! Ms. Lawrence's winning poster is shown here.



Recycle old telephone books

The annual telephone book drop-off recycling program began February 1 and runs through May 1. Collection boxes are available at these Recycling Drop-Off Centers: Jaycee Park, 2405 Wade Ave.; North Boulevard Plaza, 4510 Capital Blvd.; City of Raleigh Yard Waste Center, 900 N. New Hope Rd. (Mon.–Sat., 7 a.m.–4 p.m. only); and Solid Waste Services Administrative Office, 400 W. Peace St. (Mon.–Fri., 7 a.m.–4 p.m. only). Please remove the books from plastic delivery bags before recycling. Do not throw books on top of the collection boxes or set them on the ground outside the collection boxes. If the collection boxes are full, please report that to Solid Waste Services at 996-6890.

Telephone directories are only accepted for recycling in the collection boxes at these drop-off centers. Please do NOT put telephone books or other directories into curbside recycling bins or carts. Because the paper in these directories has been recycled many times, and the bindings contain glue that causes problems at paper mills, these books are recycled into non-paper products, such as animal bedding or insulation material, which is why they must be collected separately.

Are you tired of receiving telephone directories that you don't need or want? Prepare for next year now—opt out! Ask that you be removed from the delivery list for next year by visiting www.yellowpagesoptout.com or calling the toll-free number of the directory provider (located in the front section of each directory).



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EARTH DAY CONSIDERED



My principles are simple: protect the earth, serve the people, and explore the universe.

Rusty Schweickart, 1935–
American Astronaut

This image, I think, was maybe the most reproduced image in American history. We suddenly realized that the earth was a very small thing. Much as if you live on an island, you are much more acutely aware of the limitations of your resources and on your ability to pollute. That photograph of the Earth in this vast sea of space did pretty much the same thing for the whole planet.

Denis Hayes, 1944–
Coordinator of the first Earth Day

The photographs of the earth from space were a different kind of mirror than we had ever looked in before. It flips you from the world that we are in, to a planet that we are on.

Stewart Brand, 1938–
Editor of *Whole Earth Catalog*



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spending your “listening” time planning what you will say next or interrupting, really listen. You might learn something – from a great reuse idea to a current event – and you will be building a relationship.

- Shop in your own closets

Earth Day is a good time to think about how you are living on the earth and with its inhabitants, human and otherwise. It's a good time to slow down and enjoy the natural world. It's a good time to evaluate your daily actions.

Here are some things that you might do to slow down as you celebrate Earth Day:

- Create a “no carry-out food” day each week and make a meal together as a family. You'll reduce your packaging waste and have time to laugh and talk.
- Plan your errands or your commute so that you aren't rushing from place to place. If you will be stopping to shop, think about what you need and make a list. You'll reduce unnecessary purchases, which often become waste within days, weeks, or months.
- Listen to what others have to say. Rather than

and cupboards. We often head to the store to purchase storage containers or recipe ingredients because we don't know or can't find what we already have. If you clean out closets, drawers, and cupboards, you may find a supply of usable items, saving money and reducing waste.

- Visit the library. Libraries are a reuser's paradise. Not only can you check out books, DVDs, and more, but you can also meet your neighbors.
- Spend time in nature. Whether it is a short walk, a long bike ride, or a seat on the porch, take time to relax and breathe the fresh air. You might be inspired to start a garden, plant flowers, or begin composting.
- Listen to the sounds of children around you. Think about the world that we will be leaving them. Find a way to make a positive difference in your neighborhood or community.



(Photo by Hulton Archive/Getty Images)

Crowds gather by a George Washington statue in Union Square for an Earth Day celebration in New York City, April 22, 1970.

We've come a long way

As human beings, we have a tendency to get used to the way things are and believe that they have always been this way. For instance, what year did you get a cell phone or email? Hard to remember, isn't it! Taking the time every now and then to remember the past and note the changes that have occurred helps us understand our own actions and make better plans for the future.

Think about Earth Day. For some of you, the time before the first Earth Day in 1970 is your own personal “pre-history,” a vague time before you were born. For others, your memories of the era may or may not be filled with the environmental problems that led to a national “teach-in” for the environment.

Take some time this spring to explore the origins of Earth Day. Learn more about the pollution in our air, water, and soil that were part of everyday life prior to 1970. In

the introduction to the children's book *Earth Day* by Linda Lowery, former Senator and Earth Day founder Gaylord Nelson wrote: “Who wants to breathe dirty air or swim in a polluted lake? I don't, and I'm sure you don't either. When I was a senator, I noticed that our country's air, water, and soil were getting polluted. Plants and animals were dying. People around the United States were upset about this. They wanted to change things. But our country's leaders were not listening. They were not making laws to protect the environment.”

The energy of 20 million people speaking up on the first Earth Day changed that. Discover what the first Earth Day meant and the actions, large and small, that followed it. We have come a long way, but we certainly aren't “done.” We continue to find and face new challenges. We can best plan for our future by reflecting on our past.

These websites explore the history of Earth Day and the impact that it has had:



Earth Days: The Seeds of a Revolution
www.earthdaysmovie.com



Gaylord Nelson and Earth Day: The Making of the Modern Environmental Movement
www.nelsonearthday.net/



Earth Day: The History of a Movement
www.earthday.org/earth-day-history-movement



One Change

If you were going to make one change this month, what would it be? We have a suggestion! Keep your existing cell phone longer and then recycle it when you replace it.

Worldwide, there are 5 billion cell phones in use, about 1 billion of which are “smartphones,” which provide calling, texting, wireless Internet, and other services. In the U.S., there are about 270 million cell phones in use. Each year, about 130 million cell phones are discarded nationwide. Unfortunately, only about 10 percent of those cell phones are recycled.

Many consumers use their cell phones for only about 18 months. In most cases, these 18-month-old phones are still in good working order. A study published in the *International Journal of Life Cycle Assessment* reported that keeping a phone in use for four years could reduce the environmental impact of that phone by 40 percent, conserving natural resources, saving energy, and reducing pollution.

Recycled cell phones are either refurbished or

remanufactured. Refurbished phones are cleaned, checked, and repaired, if needed, and then used in the U.S. or in countries with rapidly growing demand for cell phones, such as Brazil, Russia, India, China, and several nations in Africa. Unusable cell phones are disassembled and the parts are recycled into new phones or other electronics. One ton of mobile phones (about 6,000 phones) contains about \$15,000 in precious metals, which are used in the manufacture of new phones.

Next time you upgrade, ask your wireless provider about take-back programs. Some wireless providers will even offer you a discount on your new phone based on the trade-in value of your old phone. Many organizations accept cell phones to help raise funds for youth, domestic violence prevention and assistance, and other programs. You can also recycle phones with other electronics. If you aren't sure how or where, contact us.

Remember to cancel your wireless service on any phone that you will no longer be using and to remove personal data before recycling the phone.

Greening your celebrations



We love to celebrate. We celebrate marriages, graduations, retirements, and other rites of passage. In the U.S., weddings alone are a \$60 billion industry. Unfortunately, many of these events, whether they are destination weddings or 40th birthday parties held at home, lead to a lot of waste. A great party doesn't require a lot of waste. However, a low-waste party does require some planning.

Here are some ideas to consider as you plan your next celebration:

1. Reduce Paper

Use evites or emails instead of printing paper invitations. If you do want to send printed invitations, choose recycled-content paper and eliminate extra paper, such as reply envelopes or tissue inserts. If a mailed reply is needed, opt for a postcard.

2. Get Creative with Centerpieces

Use locally grown, seasonal flowers, trimmed limbs from blooming shrubs, fruit, or potted native plants as centerpieces. Borrow vases, bowls, and candlesticks from family and friends, purchase them at an antique store, or rent them. Don't be afraid to mix and match. Harmonize by sticking with a color theme.

3. Go with “Something Old”

Keep in mind that most clothing purchased for a special occasion is seldom, if ever, worn again. For a wedding, a vintage dress or a remade family heirloom for the bride is a lovely alternative. For

attendants, ask them to select something in a specific color which they can either pull from their own closets or purchase with the intention of wearing again. If you are a guest at a celebration, there is no need to buy all new clothes. Add a new accessory, such as a scarf or tie, to create festive, “new” party-wear.

4. Favor Consumable Party Favors

You could skip the party favors, but if they are a “must have” for your event, select something that is reusable or consumable. Candy is always a good take-home treat. Depending on the celebration, reusable mugs or bags may be perfect. Avoid the imprints—your friends love you, but they really don't want a coffee mug with your retirement date on it!



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5. Break Out the Glassware

Choose washable and reusable glassware, plates, silverware, and napkins. Do you really need the bright “Congratulations, Graduate” paper napkins? If you buy them, be sure to pair them with your washable dishes, glasses, and mugs.

6. Remember to Recycle

We get so busy planning celebrations that we sometimes forget the basics—like recycling. Be sure to have recycling bins next to the trash containers. If you'll be using a caterer, ask about their recycling policy.



Tube-free toilet paper



Kimberly-Clark, maker of Scott brand paper products, is testing a tube-free toilet paper in a limited market area. The tube-free rolls fit on a standard spindle.

In the U.S., households use an estimated 17 billion toilet paper rolls per year. Probably less than one-quarter of those paperboard tubes are currently being recycled when the rolls are empty.

Unfortunately, the Scott Naturals tube-free tissue for the test market does not contain recycled-content paper. Most of the products in the Scott Naturals line are 40 percent recycled content. If the tubeless toilet paper hits a wider market, Kimberly-Clark plans to include more recycled content.

Recycled-content paper makes up less than 2 percent of the toilet tissue used each year. Recycled-content tissue products, including toilet paper, paper towels, and facial tissues, are readily available at grocers, pharmacies, and national retail chains. Not only does recycled-content tissue reduce the demand on forests and tree farms, but it also provides an essential market for our recyclable mixed paper. Next time you shop, give recycled-content tissue a try.

If you regularly purchase carry-out coffee or other drinks, carry your own reusable mug or cup. You'll often save a few cents on your purchase, and you'll save a paper or plastic cup each time!





Help our crews give you the best service possible! Three crews come by to provide your curbside service: recycling, garbage, and yard waste. Please place your containers at least 5 feet away from each other and away from other objects, such as mailboxes, cars, and utility poles. This simple step makes it easier for our crews to service your container and prevents damage to surrounding objects. Thanks from the crews!



Let's get our Swap Shop active again!

Do you have items that are still in good shape? Instead of throwing them away, drop them off at the Swap Shop, which is located at the Yard Waste Center, 900 N. New Hope Rd. Residents can stop by and pick up items for free during the Center's operating hours. Please only drop off items that are in good condition—if it is not something you would want to use yourself, don't drop it off for others.

To drop off items at the Swap Shop, you must go across the scales and let the Scale Operator know what items you will be dropping at the Swap Shop. If you'd like to look for something in the Swap Shop, ask the Scale Operator for the key so that you can take a look around.

For a list of accepted and prohibited items, visit our website, www.raleighnc.gov, and search for "Swap Shop."

We want your suggestions, questions and comments!

**City of Raleigh
Raleigh Recycling Division
Raleigh, NC 27602**

Solid Waste Services Hotline:
919-996-6194

Solid Waste Services Customer Service:
919-996-6890

sws@raleighnc.gov

www.raleighnc.gov/recycling

Join our email distribution list and be among the first to know about new programs, program changes, delays, schedules, recycling events, and waste reduction tips. Email your request to sws@raleighnc.gov.

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Ban goes into effect July 1



Effective July 1, 2011, North Carolina state law will ban all TVs and computers from disposal in North Carolina landfills. Fortunately, Raleigh residents already have convenient options for electronics recycling:

- Raleigh Recycling collects computers from Raleigh residents by appointment. To schedule an appointment, call 996-6890.
- The Raleigh Recycling Drop-Off Center at EcoLube (store now closed), 4901 Atlantic Ave., is open 24/7.

- Wake County's Multi-Material Facilities also accept TVs, computers, and other electronics for recycling. The North Wake Multi-Material Recycling Facility is located at 9029 Deponie Dr., Raleigh, and the South Wake Multi-Material Recycling Facility is located at 6130 Old Smithfield Rd., Apex. Hours of operation at both facilities are Monday through Saturday, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Yard waste collected weekly

We provide weekly yard waste collection on the same day as garbage and recycling collection. Residents can use their own container(s) or may use clear plastic or biodegradable paper bags. Limbs and brush can also be bundled; however, bundles should not exceed 5 feet in length, 18 inches in diameter and 75 pounds in weight. **Yard waste in black plastic bags will not be collected.** Residents may also drop off yard waste materials at the Yard Waste Recycling Center for a fee of \$25 per ton, prorated, with a minimum fee of \$6.25.

All materials collected at the curb go to the Yard Waste Recycling Facility, which is owned and operated by the City, where they are recycled as wood chips, leaf mulch, mulch, and compost. The products are available for sale to the public. Here are the prices:

- Wood Chips – \$2 per bag or can; \$15 per 2½ cubic yards
 - Mulch – \$2 per bag or can; \$15 per 2½ cubic yards
 - Compost – \$3 per bag or can; \$20 per 2½ cubic yards
 - Colored Wood Chips – Red, Black or Brown – Availability may vary. All sales are final. – \$5 per bag or can; \$50 per 2½ cubic yards
- Prices are subject to change. Customers must bring their own bags or cans.

Compost is tested by an independent laboratory and certified for quality under the Seal of Testing Assurance program sponsored by the U.S. Composting Council.



Notice to residents

Residents are reminded that all containers and materials are subject to the Solid Waste Services (SWS) Code. Place refuse containers, recycling bins/carts, and yard waste at the curb no earlier than noon the day before collection and no later than 7 a.m. on the day of collection. Remove recycling carts/bins, yard waste containers, refuse cans, and uncollected, improperly prepared waste from the curb to an inconspicuous place, not easily seen when viewed from the street facing the front door of the house, by 7 p.m. the day after collection. Violations of the SWS Code may result in a \$50 fine.

What an America Recycles Day!

To celebrate America Recycles Day last fall, we held one huge recycling event! We collected 35,039 pounds of electronics, 32,100 pounds of household hazardous waste, 11,380 pounds of shredded paper, 1,800 pounds of gently used household furnishings for families in need, 520 pounds of rigid plastics, 79 pounds of plastic bags, 53 pounds of CFL bulbs, and 34 pounds of inkjet and toner cartridges. The total was 81,005 pounds, or 40.5 TONS! We estimate that over 700 vehicles dropped off materials. Way to go, Raleigh!



You can leave the caps on plastic bottles when you recycle. If you do, flatten the plastic bottle first to remove all of the air and then recap it. After you recap the bottle, it will stay "squished," saving space in your bin or cart and in our trucks, which will allow us to collect more materials before stopping to unload.

These caps will not be recycled. If you'd prefer to recycle your caps, you can drop them off at an Aveda store.

Caps should be removed from gable-top cartons, such as juice cartons, because those containers are primarily paper. It's best to squish them, but they'll stay squished without the caps.



Plastic bags can be recycled, but NOT in your City of Raleigh bin or cart. At the material recovery facility where recyclables are sorted, bags jam the equipment. Please put your paper, bottles, and cans loose into your bin or cart. There is no need to bag and separate items—leave the sorting to us!

If you are in an area that is still using recycling bins, and you need more space for recyclables, use a container that is similar in shape and size to the bin, such as a laundry basket.

Empty plastic bags can be recycled at many grocery stores, as well as at stores such as Staples, Target, or Walmart. Best of all, local Harris Teeter stores will accept plastic bags and most non-food-contaminated plastic film for recycling, including produce bags, bread bags, dry cleaner bags, plastic wrap from tissue packages, etc.



Raleigh Recycling offers quarterly tours at the local material recovery facility, where all of the recyclable materials are sorted, baled, and sent off to market. For more information, contact Education Specialist Bianca Howard at 996-6872 or bianca.howard@raleighnc.gov.



Get away from disposable batteries and switch to rechargeable batteries, which last longer and are a better value. Plus, when rechargeable batteries are "dead" and will no longer hold a charge, you can conveniently recycle them at your neighborhood fire station in Raleigh, the Yard Waste Recycling Center, or the Solid Waste Services Administrative Office—that's 29 locations!